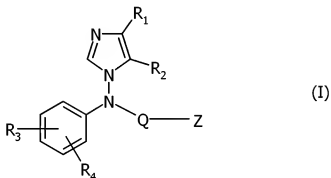


IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

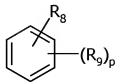
Claims 1-39 (canceled).

40. (currently amended) An imidazole derivative of formula (I):



and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein :

- R_1 and R_2 are each independently hydrogen, a (C_1-C_6) alkyl;
- Q is selected from the group consisting of ~~a direct link~~ $C(O)$, SO_2 , $CONH$, $C(O)(CH_2)_n$, $(CH_2)_n(O)$ and $(CH_2)_n$, where n is 0, 1 or 2;
- Z is the group



- one of R_3 and R_8 is hydroxy, cyano, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy or $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$; and
- the other of R_3 and R_8 is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$ group,

- R_4 is hydrogen and R_9 is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, acyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, or CO_2R_{10} group,
- R_{10} , R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently hydrogen or a (C_1-C_6) alkyl;
- p is 1, 2, 3 or 4;
- when p is 2, 3 or 4, each R_9 can be the same or different;
- when $p=1$, R_8 and R_9 together with the phenyl ring bearing them can also form a benzoxathiazine dioxide, a dihydrobenzoxathiazine dioxide, or a benzoxathiazole dioxide;

with the proviso that when Q is $(CH_2)_n$, n is 0, 1 or 2 and

- 1) when p is 1, then one of R_3 and R_8 is hydroxyl or a $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ group;
 - 2) when p is 2, R_3 is cyano or (C_1-C_6) alkoxy and R_8 is hydrogen, then one R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, acyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, and CO_2R_{10} , and the other R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, nitro, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, and CO_2R_{10} ;
 - 3) when p is 3 or 4, then each R_9 is other than hydrogen
- ~~2) when p is 2, 3 or 4, then each R_9 is other than hydrogen, and~~
- ~~3) when p is 2, then each R_9 is hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, trifluoromethyl, acyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ or CO_2R_{10} group.~~

41. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- one of R_3 and R_8 is cyano; and

- the other is hydrogen or a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, (C₁-C₆) alkoxy, NR₁₀R₁₁, SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, NR₁₂SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ group.

Claim 42 (canceled).

43. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- R₉ is hydrogen or a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, CO₂R₁₀, CHO, NR₁₂SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ group.

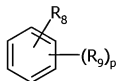
44. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- R₉ is hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, CO₂R₁₀, or CHO.

Claim 45 (canceled).

46. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- Z is



- Q is (CH₂)_n in which n 0, 1 or 2;
- R₈ is hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano or a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, NR₁₀R₁₁, SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, OSO₂NR₁₀R₁₁, or NR₁₂SO₂NR₁₀R₁₁ group; and

- R_9 is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, or $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$.

47. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n is 0 or 1; and
- R_9 is hydrogen, halogen, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, acyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ or $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$.

48. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n is 0 or 1;
- R_1 and R_2 are each hydrogen; and
- R_9 is hydrogen, halogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl or $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$.

49. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein:

- n and p are 1;
- R_8 is a hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, $NR_{12}SO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$ or $OSO_2NR_{10}SO_2NR_{11}R_{12}$ group;
- R_9 a hydroxy, cyano, halogen, nitro, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, $NR_{10}R_{11}$, $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$, CO_2R_{10} or CHO group; and
- R_3 is cyano, hydroxy, or $OSO_2NR_{10}R_{11}$.

50. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R_3 and R_8 is hydroxy, cyano or

$\text{OSO}_2\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$ and the other of R_3 and R_8 is hydroxy, nitro, $\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$, $\text{OSO}_2\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$ or $\text{NR}_{12}\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$.

51. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 50, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein one of R_3 and R_8 is cyano or $\text{OSO}_2\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$ and the other is hydroxy or $\text{OSO}_2\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$.

52. (previously presented) A derivative according to claim 40, and acid addition salts and stereoisomeric forms thereof, wherein R_{10} and R_{11} are hydrogen.

53. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

54. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a derivative according to claim 40, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 54, comprising from 0.1 to 400 mg of said derivative.

56. (currently amended) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected the group consisting of:

- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methylbenzonitrile,

- 4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile
- 4-[N-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-bromo-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-formyl-4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}benzene sulphonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-hydroxy-3-nitrophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-methoxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-nitrophenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide,
- N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)propanamide,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-(phenylmethoxy)-benzenesulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(3-amino-4-hydroxy-phenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,

- 4-{N-[2-(4-hydroxyphenoxy)ethyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino}benzonitrile,
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4-hydroxybenzensulfonamide,
- 4-[N-(4-aminophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester, hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- N-{4-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl}sulfamide,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester,

- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- 2-Bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl amidimidodisulfate acid,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3,4-dihydro-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 5-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}-2-hydroxybenzoic acid,
- 4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(phenyl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-(3-tosylamino-4-hydroxy-benzyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3-tosyl-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-3H-1,2,3-benzoxathiazol-5-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]benzonitrile, and
- N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N'-phenylurea,
- ~~4-[N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-N-(4-ethoxyphenyl)amino]methylbenzonitrile, and~~
- ~~4-[N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methylbenzonitrile.~~

57. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is selected from the group consisting of:

- Sulfamic acid 4-[N-(4-cyanophenylmethyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2-chloro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester,

- Sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 2-methoxy-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester,
- 4-[N-[(2,2-dioxido-1,2,3-benzoxathiazin-6-yl)methyl]-N-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)amino] benzonitrile,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]sulfonyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{2-[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)-carbamoyl]-methyl} phenyl ester,
- Sulfamic acid 4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]-3-oxopropyl} phenyl ester, and
- Sulfamic acid 3-(aminosulfonyl)amino-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino]methyl}phenyl ester.

58. (previously presented) An imidazole derivative according to claim 40, which is sulfamic acid 2-bromo-4-{[N-(4-cyanophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-1yl)amino] methyl}phenyl ester hydrochloride.

Claim 59 (canceled).